

P23976.A01



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Herbert SCHREFL et al. Confirmation No.: Unknown
Appln. No : 10/624,605 Group Art Unit: 3626
Filed : July 23, 2003 Examiner: V. Patel
For : SEALING DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents that were cited in U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/090,172 filed March 5, 2002, to which the above-captioned application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

The following documents were cited in an Information Disclosure Statement filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a) - (c) on June 4, 2002 in parent Application. No. 10/090,172 filed March 5, 2002, of which the above-captioned application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

- (1) German Patent Application No. 197 51 283 A1, published May 20, 1999, which is discussed in the present application beginning in paragraph [0002].

In a first Official Action dated April 23, 2003 in parent Application No. 10/090,172 filed March 5, 2002, of which the above-captioned application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the Examiner cited the following documents:

- (2) U.S. Patent No. 2,900,024 issued August 1959 to HOLCROFT;
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,295,654 issued October 1981 to KAWAMURA et al.;
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 2,893,487 issued July 1959 to DAHL et al.;
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 3,586,342 issued June 1971 to STAAB;
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 6,050,572 issued April 2000 to BALSELLS et al.;
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 4,560,174 issued December 1985 to BISI;
- (8) U.S. Patent No. 5,580,424 issued December 1996 to SNELLMAN;
- (9) U.S. Patent No. 5,262,010 issued November 1993 to BUBIK et al.;
- (10) U.S. Patent No. 4,915,787 issued April 1990 to BRANYON et al.;
- (11) U.S. Patent No. 2,578,551 issued December 1951 to HORNBOSTEL;
- (12) U.S. Patent No. 6,436,241 issued August 2002 to PERSSON et al.; and
- (13) U.S. Patent No. 6,302,399 issued October 2001 to PRINZING.

The following documents were cited in a Search Report conducted in European Patent Application No. 01 130 485.4-2314, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

- (14) U.S. Patent No. 2,900,024 issued August 18, 1959 to HOLCROFT as an "X"

category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 - 6, 9 - 11, and 41 - 45 of the European application. Further, the Examiner also cited this document as an "A" category document (i.e., a document relevant to the technological background of the invention), such that the entire document is relevant in this regard to claims 36 - 38 of the European application. Applicants note that this document has been cited above as item (2);

(15) German Patent Application No. 197 51 283 published May 20, 1999 as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed in the application) and as an "X" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 2, 4 - 13, 17, 23 - 26, 28, 32, - 35, and 39 - 45 of the European application. Applicants note that this document has been cited above as item (1). Further, Applicants note that, as a copy of this document was forwarded to the Examiner in the above-noted Information Disclosure Statement in the parent application, a copy of this document is not being forwarded herewith;

(16) U.S. Patent No. 2,312,519 issued March 2, 1943 to BERRY as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 12 - 17, 25, 262, 28 - 31, 35, 39 - 43, and 45 of the European

application;

(17) Great Britain Patent Specification No. 736 149 published September 7, 1955 as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 and 12 of the European application; and

(18) U.S. Patent No. 2,274,641 issued March 3, 1942 to ABBOTT et al. as an "A" category document. In particular, the European Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1 and 12 of the European application.

Copies of items (1) - (13) were submitted in parent Application 10/090,172 filed March 5, 2002, and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 198(d), and M.P.E.P. 609, copies of these documents (1) - (13) are not being submitted herewith. However, each of these documents is listed on the enclosed form PTO-1449.

Moreover, items (14) - (18) are likewise listed on the enclosed completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

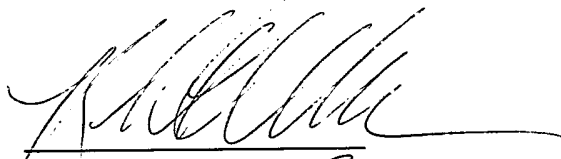
Moreover, copies of the European Search Report and of item (17) are being submitted herewith. However, pursuant to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the cited/listed U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. Moreover, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to contact the undersigned.

The Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the first official communication.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

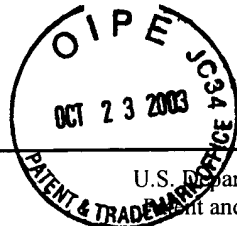
Respectfully submitted,
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Form PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.
P23976Serial No.
10/624,605

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BY APPLICANT**
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant
Herbert SCHREFL et al.Filing Date
July 23, 2003Group
3626**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		2 9 0 0 0 2 4	08/1959	HOLCROFT			
		4 2 9 5 6 5 4	10/1981	KAWAMURA et al.			
		2 8 9 3 4 8 7	07/1959	DAHL et al.			
		3 5 8 6 3 4 2	06/1971	STAAB			
		6 0 5 0 5 7 5	04/2000	BALSELLS et al.			
		4 5 6 0 1 7 4	12/1985	BISI			
		5 5 8 0 4 2 4	12/1996	SNELLMAN			
		5 2 6 2 0 1 0	11/1993	BUBIK et al.			
		4 9 1 5 7 8 7	04/1990	BRANYON et al.			
		2 5 7 8 5 5 1	12/1951	HORNBOSTEL			
		6 4 3 6 2 4 1	08/2002	PERSSON et al.			
		6 3 0 2 3 9 9	10/2001	PRINZING			
		2 9 0 0 0 2 4	08/18/59	HOLCROFT			
		2 3 1 2 5 1 9	03/02/43	BERRY			
		2 2 7 4 6 4 1	03/03/42	ABBOTT et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
1 9	7 5 1 2 8 3	05/20/99	GERMANY			
	7 3 6 1 4 9	09/07/55	UNITED KINGDOM			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.